

via pacis



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AFFORDABLE HOUSING CAMPAIGN



As the numbers of homeless increase, advocates for the homeless have been turning more toward a demand for housing than for shelter space, recognizing that to put major focus on creating shelter space institutionalizes homelessness and offers no long-range solutions to the problems of the homeless. The Affordable Housing Act, which will be introduced into Congress in July, is intended to generate housing to replace the 7.5 million units of low-cost housing which current studies estimate will be lacking by the turn of the century. This piece of legislation differs from earlier housing bills in two major ways: first, the housing created will remain permanently available to the poor, unlike earlier programs in which the units could be rented on the open market after 20 years (which is already happening, thus contributing to the housing shortage), and second, the housing is targeted specifically at low- rather than low-to-moderate income people.

We strongly support this legislation in the draft version which is summarized below. The Community for Creative Non-violence, which has been working for passage of this act, anticipates pressure to modify some provisions of the eventual bill, particularly to extend it to moderate income people. Such a modification, putting the poor in competition with higher income people, will leave them out in the cold again. We urge our readers to contact your representatives in Congress to back this bill in as close a form as possible to the draft version, and particularly to let them know that you support housing reserved for the poorest of the poor.



SUMMARY OF THE 'AFFORDABLE HOUSING ACT'

An MIT study estimated that the United States will lack 7.5 million units of low-cost housing by the turn of the century and that, unless steps are taken now, nearly 19 million Americans will be faced with the prospect of homelessness. Since 1949, federal housing policy has been to provide a decent home and suitable living environment for every family in the United States. This proposed legislation, taking that policy statement at its word, lays out a specific programmatic approach to fulfilling this national commitment. This is a housing production program -- expanding the supply of low-cost housing units. The proposal includes a source of revenues to pay for the program.

1. FIRST HELP THOSE IN GREATEST NEED: While many lower-income people face a housing crisis, this proposal is based on the notion that those in the greatest need should be helped first -- first the homeless, and then those low-income families living in overcrowded, grossly substandard housing or paying too much for their housing.

2. CREATE A PERMANENT STOCK OF LOW-COST HOUSING: It makes no sense to use taxpayers' money to build low-income housing unless it will remain permanently affordable for low-income people. Unlike the Section 8 program and earlier federal programs, affordable housing under this proposal would remain available permanently only to low income people.

3. ONE-TIME CAPITAL GRANTS: Federal housing programs frequently are overly complex, and require financial commitments decades into the future. This proposal is straightforward: one-time capital grants up front for development of

housing and operating subsidies each year to assure that the housing remains affordable to low-income people. Program funds can be used for new construction, rehabilitation, public housing modernization, or acquisition.

4. COMMUNITY-BASED DECISION-MAKING: The most successful programs are those that rely on locally-directed efforts. That is why this proposal gives priority to nonprofit, community-based organizations. Private sector developers, however, have a great deal of expertise and access to capital, and would be encouraged to participate.

5. MAKE BETTER USE OF EXISTING HOUSING RESOURCES: In many communities, housing resources go unused -- vacant land and buildings, tax abatement, and private housing that could be acquired for use as permanent low-cost housing. First priority for funding would go to projects that cut development costs by making better use of existing resources.

6. FAIR TAX INCREASE PAYS FOR THE PROGRAM: Given concern over the budget deficit, any credible proposal must include a funding source. This program would be paid for by a progressive increase in individual tax rates. This proposal calls for the appropriation of \$20 billion a year for the eventual construction of 7 1/2 units of publicly-owned low-income housing. It will take at least 20 years to do this, even at \$20 billion a year. Funding will come from a modest increase in personal income tax (less than one percent), and the creation of two new higher brackets for upper-income earners. Truly solving the homeless/housing crisis requires a national commitment and a shared willingness to sacrifice. All of us, rich and poor alike, must contribute to this effort.



NORMAN'S WHEREABOUTS

To begin with, in the last article I wrote, I talked about a cat named Checkers. A few days after the newsletter was mailed out, Checkers was killed by a car. It seems that cars travelling on 8th Street sometimes won't stop for dogs, cats, or children, yet they will stop for women either to harrass them or pick them up. When Checkers was hit, I and a couple of others thought it was our neighbors' cat until they checked. When they told me that it was Checkers my heart dropped like a rock. I felt as if I was robbed. I buried Checkers in the back of the food store which I'm hoping to make a marker or somewhat of a headstone. It may sound stupid, a headstone for a cat, but to me Checkers was more, he was a friend. He cheered me up whenever I was down and out. He was a child which Sheryl and I shared. It made me proud to let Sheryl know how our child was doing. Right now, Sheryl wants me to find a cat that looks like me. That way I'm giving another cat a chance to live.

I've learned that to a lot of people that live by themselves, who don't go out or are old or have a hard time being near people, pets are always appreciated, almost like the TV which for some is another kind of friend, but to me pets are better.

If you ever find yourself in need of a friend or know someone who could give a cat or a dog a home, then I want you to check out the animal rescue league where they have a lot of homeless animals who like a lot of humans are homeless too, and like a lot of groups are finding it hard to get help.



For the last few days I've been somewhat celebrating my birthday early, I plan on celebrating it until after my birthday is over which is July 25. I've been passing out gifts to people. I figured since I wasn't going home when all my friends were off from their jobs that I should send them some gifts at the same time try to make peace with them and try to make them understand why and to let them know that next July, which is next year, I plan on spending it with them.

Because I see that we all need each other in order to keep this work going. Since I don't have very many friends I would like to keep the ones I have.

I figure since I won't be going home this summer and my birthday will be here soon, I figure that I would perhaps change the date of getting a truck of my own until next June.

Yet I find myself confused and I've been praying about it a lot and I've been doing a lot of looking at the same time. But for now I'm still collecting bottles and cans and still working at Panda Chinese Foods as a dishwasher. If it sounds like a sad story of some kind there's a happy side, which is, I'm still passing out gifts to people, just to cheer them up. I'm still working hard around the community and I'm still seeing Sheryl. I still deliver food to Bernice who is always thankful for the food, which makes me happy.

As for future plans, here they are: I plan to spend some time alone at Frank's house when Patti gets back from India. Then to take some time off from my work around the house to work at Panda and the State Fair because my mother is coming to visit me in October. I plan on begging for blankets like I do each year so people won't freeze along with begging for Christmas gifts so people can have a Christmas. Then I plan to run away with myself for a few days, to do some thinking about what do I want to do for the next ten years after my tenth year as a Catholic Worker shows up in a couple of years or, sooner.

Then like I said earlier I want to go home next July for a month in a pickup truck which I'll get next June. That way I can see America better as I go home.

Well, I've got to go now.
Thank you.

RALLY for LOW-INCOME HOUSING

Here in Des Moines and across the country housing is being allowed to deteriorate or is being torn down while poor and working people find themselves unable to afford a place to live. An MIT study projects that unless current trends are reversed, by the turn of the century 19 million people will be homeless.

On July 14, poor people and their supporters all over the country are demonstrating to demand that our government enact legislation to make housing a priority.

The AFFORDABLE HOUSING ACT, recently introduced into Congress, will create 7.5 million units of low-income housing. We are asking that our representatives support this legislation. We need your help.

Sponsored by Des Moines Coalition for the Homeless
Des Moines Catholic Worker
Kindred Community

AROUND THE COMMUNITY

In these hot days things have slowed down quite a bit around the house. During the Spring there were quite a few older kids staying with us and the place was a madhouse but lately we've had some space open much of the time and most of the children have been babies or toddlers. It's been a welcome break especially since with the weather all of us adults are either semi-comatose or on a pretty short fuse. Coming by the house these days you are likely to see 3 or 4 little girls playing in the dirt out front or in the baby pool which recently came in on donations. The kids are all having a great time splashing around, racing up and down the sidewalk, and sightseeing from the front steps. How do they do it?

With the heat we haven't felt too much like cooking (who has?) so we want to give special thanks to everyone who has been bringing over leftovers from graduation receptions, weddings, etc. It's also been great to receive a lot of donations of fresh produce, since we've been able to fix quite a few salads lately.

We also want to thank Greg Vitale, Kathi Sircy and Kaitlin, Linda Myrick, Madeleine Kelly, Tom Iverson, and the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament community for taking shifts on the house. Things have been pretty tight in the scheduling department over the last several months and it has helped a lot to be able to count on them to take some shifts.

We had help from a couple of work camps last month. A workcamp from New Hampton, IA, came just in time to help us out in the aftermath of the long overdue fumigating of Lazarus House. It took forever to clean up that mess, and we'd probably still be doing it if they hadn't showed up! They also worked on cleaning up some lumber for the new house. Many, many thanks to Laura, Lynn, and everyone for all your good energy. A second workcamp from the First United Methodist Church in Ilathe, Kansas, worked on rebuilding the retaining wall in front of the house on Indiana Avenue. That really took a lot of heart since it was over 100 degrees at the time and in full sun. We really appreciated all their efforts.

We really want to give special thanks to Jim Speak for fumigating the house!



We are looking forward to a visit from Peter DeMott, a former member of our community, who will be passing through Des Moines on July 8th. Peter will be leading a roundtable on resistance that evening after mass at the Worker House, particularly from the perspective of those who have families and children. We are hoping a lot of people will come and share ideas on this topic, which is very dear to our hearts!

Also on the 8th several participants in the Soviet-American Peace Walk will be staying with us, and we are looking forward to this chance to exchange ideas and experiences.

We are getting ready for July 14th, when the Worker will be joining Kindred House and the Des Moines Coalition for the Homeless in a demonstration for low-income housing. July 14th has been set by the National Coalition for the Homeless, the Union of the Homeless and the Community for Creative Non-violence as a day of coordinated direct action across the country demanding that low-income housing be recognized as a national priority. Occupations of abandoned buildings, vacant lots, tent cities and similar actions will be taking place in 50-70 cities. These actions are being timed to accompany the introduction of the Affordable Housing Act into Congress. Here in Des Moines we will be holding a rally at the levee on the West bank of the Des Moines River at First and Court. Afterwards we will engage in dramatic action in a location proximate both to the seats of government and to the spots where some of Des Moines' homeless spend their days and nights. The rally is set for noon -- we hope a lot of folks will come out.



We really appreciate the response to the financial appeal we made last time so that we could begin substantial work on the new house. Work on the house has not been coming along the way we had hoped it would, and in fact has been pretty much at a standstill recently. We've been pretty discouraged since with all the different factors -- volunteer time, money, weather, permits -- it seems like nothing much is working out. At the moment we have the money to get going but things are being held up by problems getting a permit for the electrical work. It's not much of a progress report, but what can we say? Anyway, we are hoping that once the weather breaks and the permit gets worked out, which hopefully will be in the next week, things will start moving. Please keep this project in your prayers.



Linda Fritz, who stayed with us briefly while she was working at IPN and waiting for an assignment overseas with the Brethren Volunteer Service, left at the end of May for Belfast. She wasn't with us very long but she really brought a boost of energy and we miss her a lot!

Leagals Dunbar, a volunteer at the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament next door, moved in with us early in May and is living at Ligutti House and working here at the house as well as at CND. Leagals did some time on the streets in Colorado so when he went to CND he wanted to balance that work with involvement with the homeless. He is planning to be around indefinitely and we are really glad to have him with us.

Patti got off to India on June 17th and won't be back till the end of July. We can't wait to hear from her but from what she says she'll get here before the mail does so we'll just have to wait.

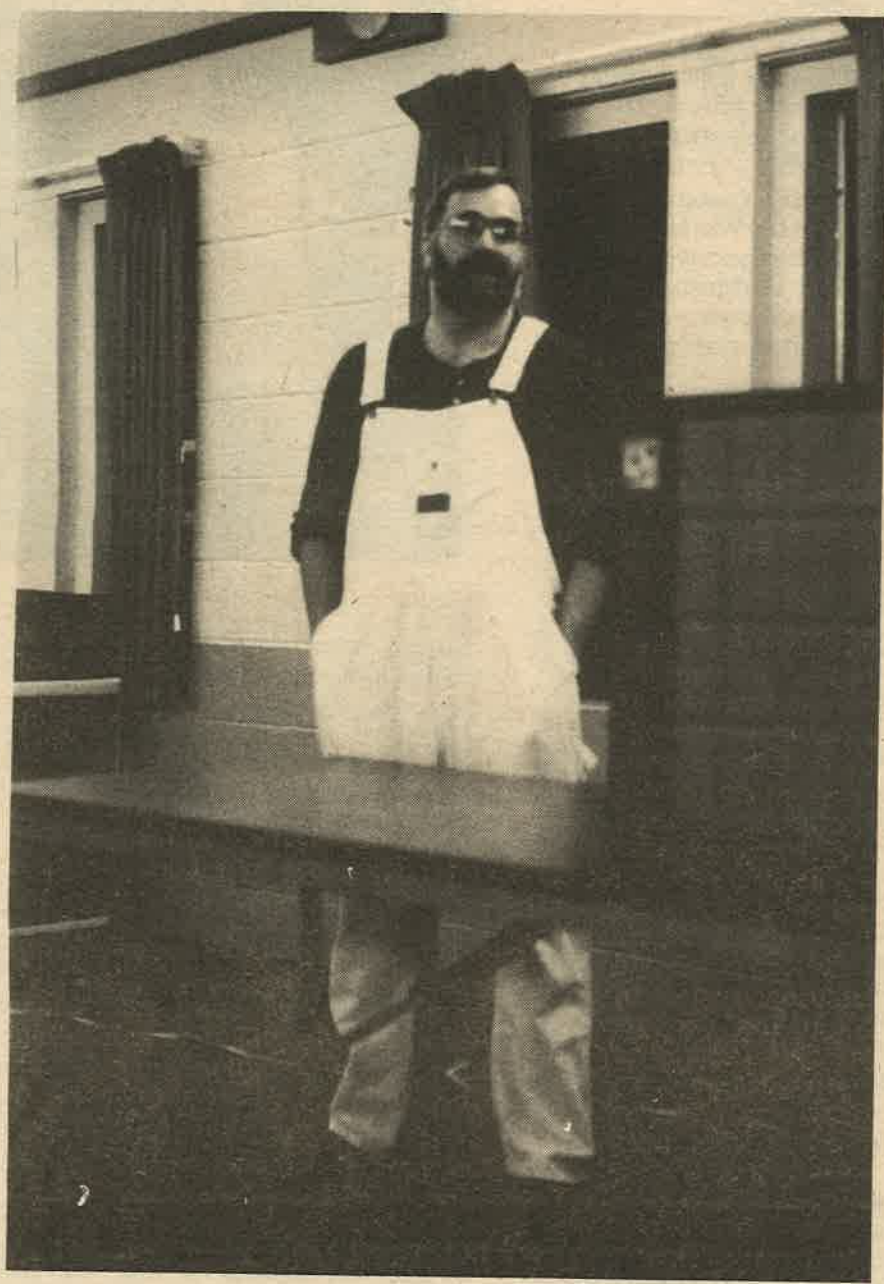
As the only driver these days Normar has been pretty busy running errands in the mornings, working at Panda Foods six afternoons a week and taking some shifts in the evenings. He keeps talking about taking a break but he still seems to be here!

Jim spent a week with his son in Wisconsin helping him to wire a house he built. Since then he's been on the house here every day. Jim and Bobby from Kindred Community put an enclosed porch on the back of the new house and did some work at Rufus Jones to help bring it up to code.

The kids and I (Wendy) spent several weeks at the Worker Houses in San Antonio and Tucson. Filomena's patient daily efforts to teach me Spanish before I left didn't produce much fruit but fortunately there were always people around who could translate and it wasn't quite the culture shock I had anticipated anyway. I went there partly to get a break from here but mostly because I have been pretty concerned recently with the INS and what is happening with undocumented people here in Des Moines so I was trying to see what people were doing in a place where I figured most of the guests would probably be undocumented. It was a pretty vague plan and the things I learned were not even in the same department but nonetheless it was really a good experience and hopefully by the next issue I'll be able to articulate some of it. Erin Kelly at the San Antonio house, a friend of their house named Margaret, Jim and Pat Corbett of the Tucson Refugee Support Group and Brian Flagg from the Tucson Worker spent a lot of time talking with me and I felt like I learned a lot -- enough to know that I really want to go back to Tucson and to Mexico. I hope to be able to go back later on in the year and spend more concentrated time.

FR.

TWO M

**DIESEL THERAPY**

Greetings from Camp Marion. After two weeks in the Federal Prisoners Transportation system, fondly called "Diesel Therapy", I landed in Marion, Illinois at the Prison Camp attached to the main prison. I was in the express lane. I spent my first week of captivity in Douglas County Jail in Omaha, Nebraska, with Rich Koeppen, Kevin McGuire and Joyce Glen. Each of us were in separate units. Leaving Rich and Kevin behind, Joyce and I were transported by the federal Marshals with six other prisoners to Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. Our means of transportation was an eight person jet confiscated by the Feds in a drug bust. We were travelling in style. Joyce and I were separated in Oklahoma City where she was taken to the county jail. I and my other travelling companions were taken to the Federal Prison in El Reno Oklahoma, about 30 miles outside of Oklahoma City. From the time we left Douglas County Jail to the time we were secured in the El Reno Prison we were handcuffed and shackled.

El Reno is a major clearing center for Federal prisoners in transit. I spent a week in a holding cell with 40 other guys awaiting shipment to our final destinations. I was awakened at 2 AM April 27th and taken to the airport with 96 other inmates and put on a 727 jet. Our first stop was also my last stop: Terre Haute, Indiana. At Terre Haute 18 of us were taken off the plane to a waiting bus. We were driven directly to Marion Illinois. It took 3 1/2 hours. We were handcuffed and shackled from the moment we left El Reno to the time we were secured inside Marion Prison.

By Frank Cordaro

Mine was an express route as transportation goes in the Federal system. Rich Koeppen took five weeks to get to Duluth, Minnesota, his final destination. Kevin McGuire, who was originally assigned to Leavenworth, Kansas, has been rerouted to Chicago FCC because of the fast he was on and his refusal to work. As I write this I don't know if Kevin has made it to Chicago yet. Joyce Glen made it to Lexington Kentucky not long after I arrived at Marion.

It is not uncommon for inmates to take up to two or three months to reach their final destinations. While in transit the conditions are most uncomfortable. You are usually held in overgrown holding cells. There are no commissary privileges, little if any recreation time, limited writing and reading material, your mail rarely catches up with you and you are often without access to a phone. In short, you are 'incommunicado'. Incidentally, all three of us, Rich, Kevin and myself were held in the same holding tank in El Reno all at different times. The term "Diesel Therapy" is too kind...

MARION PRISON

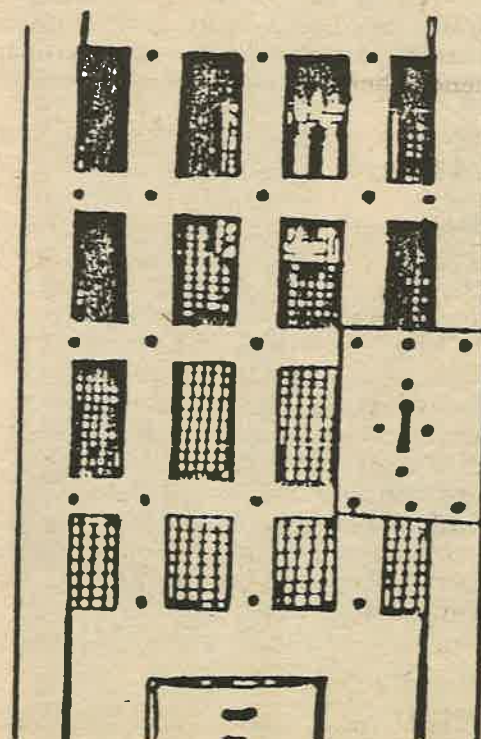
Marion Prison Camp is situated right outside Marion Prison. The contrast between the camp and prison is stark. Marion Prison is the highest level security joint in the U.S. Federal Prison system. It took the place of Alcatraz in the 1960's. This place is an impenetrable fortress! It is surrounded by a double fence, wired with juice and layered with razor edged concertina fencing. There is a guard tower on every corner, at every entrance and in

the middle of every side. One can not be sent to Marion Prison from a court room. You are assigned to Marion by the Federal Bureau of Prisons (BOP). The BOP claims they send only "trouble makers" and the so-called "worst of the worst" convicts to Marion. Inmates who pose a threat to the Federal Prison system. Yet there is evidence that many have been sent to Marion for protesting prison conditions, leading work strikes, taking legal action or arguing for religious freedom in the Federal Prison system.

What makes Marion Prison unique in the Federal Prison system is not the physical plant but how the prison population is treated. Since October 28, 1987, the whole prison population (then 355 men) except for 40 "honor unit" prisoners, has been confined to their 8 by 8 by 6 foot cells for 23 hours of every day. One hour a day the men of this new Alcatraz are allowed into the short hallway in their cell block to shave, shower and "recreate" -- by means of walking or jogging along the corridor -- always in handcuffs. In the July 27, 1987 "U.S. News & World Report" article on Marion it states, "There is no communal dining, no prison industry, no large group recreation, no visiting, entertainment, no random mingling with friends .. no educational classes, no trustees, no contact visit with loved ones, no large group church services." "Total helplessness" is one inmate's assessment of his life in Marion. The U.S. News & World Report article goes on to state that Marion Prison has "...the strictest rules ever implemented in modern American penology." It has the longest running lockdown in U.S. Prison history.

In a December 31, 1986 report, made public in May of 1987, the Nobel Prize-winning human rights organization Amnesty International attacked the lockdown conditions calling them a violation of the U.N. Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners. It is the first-ever condemnation of U.S. prison by Amnesty.

What is most frightening about Marion is the fact that other prison systems are looking at Marion as a model. Soon there will be little Marions throughout the country breaking the minds and the spirits of inmates with this cruel and inhuman treatment.



FRANK'S MONTH REPORT:

MARION CAMP

In stark contrast sits Marion Prison Camp. Prison camps are the lowest level security facilities in the BOP. There are no fences or walls to keep us in. There are mostly white collar and non-violent offenders here, the most common offenders being those doing time for drugs. I live in an open dormitory on a bottom bunk with 80 other guys. The total camp population is about 210. This is a small camp for the Federal system. We are free to walk the grounds during daylight hours, responsible to be at our bunks only at count times and there are lots of counts. There is a track, a baseball field, a gym with weights, tennis court, a TV room, a Law Library with a few worn out typewriters, video movies after the 10 PM count and popcorn on Saturday nights. It's a laid back existence as prison life goes.

Most camps have some major industry work that they are assigned. At Marion Camp the major industry is the main prison. Since the lockdown the camp has served as a support facility for the prison. Campers do all the prison's cooking, laundry and maintenance. Campers are doing inside the walls what in other prisons prisoners have done for themselves. It was one of the things I dreaded most about coming to the camp at Marion. Fortunately, I have not been assigned to work inside the main prison. The Camp Administrator has assured me I will not be assigned inside the prison because I am only a misdemeanor offender. For whatever reason, I am grateful I do not have to directly support the ongoing lockdown. Marion Prison: a hell hole if I've ever known one.

MY LIFE AT THE CAMP

The first five weeks here I was assigned to the Camp Kitchen as a dish washer, a job that suited me fine. We worked hard during meal times with free time in between to do as I pleased. Enough time for me to get my prayers in, for reading and writing and for a disciplined exercise program. I am determined to make this time work to my advantage. So far the effort has paid off. I've lost almost 10 pounds, with ten more to go. I'm keeping up with my correspondence and I'm writing a letter a week back home for my parish bulletin. A kind of prison journal that helps me keep in contact with the folks at home and gives me an opportunity to reflect and write about my experiences here.

LARRY MORLAN / PRAYER / THE EUCHARIST

The biggest plus about being here at Marion is that I am doing time with Larry Morlan. Larry is a 28 year old Catholic Worker from Davenport Iowa and a Plowshares activist who is doing six years for beating up a missile silo in Missouri. He's been down about two years now and has at least another two and a half to go. Last year John LaForge was sent here after receiving a six month sentence for line crossing at SAC. After my arrival Larry said that he is beginning to expect someone from Omaha to be sent here every summer just to keep him company.

It has been a great privilege to share this time with Larry. His presence helps me keep perspective on my own time. There is a great difference between doing six months and doing six years! Larry is holding up well. He is one of the more reflective and prayerful people I've known. An ex-seminarian, he has given me some pointers on how to pray the "Office". We pray our evening prayer together at 7 PM every night.

The biggest moment in the day comes at the end. After the 10 PM count Larry and I come together for a private eucharist in the Chaplain's office. The Catholic Chaplain provides us with bread and wine for this nightly celebration. This has been a great source of strength for both of us. The sharing of God's Word and the Breaking of the Bread has been a great way to conclude our days.

Fr. O'Connor, the Catholic Chaplain, has been most gracious. He has always treated me as a peer. Along with the cover for the nightly eucharist, he has allowed me to concelebrate with him at the weekend mass for the camp plus give the homily on several occasions.



FROM THE DISH TANK TO THE CLASS ROOM

Last week I got transferred out of the Camp Kitchen and into the Camp Education Department. A job that promises to be a bit more rewarding than the pots and pans I have been dealing with for five weeks. There is not much to the Education Department. Mostly we help guys get their GEDs plus do some tutoring. I'm also in charge of the camp library which is in sorry shape. Mostly old test books, encyclopedias, with hardly 300 actual books to read. Luckily people can have up to three paperback books sent to them at any one time (hint.). The new job will be less taxing than my kitchen job with more free time to pursue my other concerns. As we say in prison terms, I'm doing "Easy Time".

HUMANITARIAN AID FOR NICARAGUA

QUEST FOR PEACE, a nationwide effort coordinated by the Quixote Center in Hyattsville, Md to send humanitarian aid to the people of Nicaragua, is seeking help in collecting a variety of supplies for shipment to Nicaragua. The goal is to fill a cargo container (2560 cubic feet, or about the size of a semi) with material aid and to raise the \$6000 to ship it to Nicaragua. Priority items are listed below. Checks should be made out to American Friends Service Committee and sent to Quest for Peace, P.O. Box 8211, Des Moines, IA 50306.

Anyone able to help organize this effort is asked to contact one of the following people:

Quad Cities area: Sandy Carlson (309)798-2240
Cedar Rapids area: Fred Jones (319)362-5015
Des Moines, elsewhere: Bill Douglas (515)243-2571

PRIORITIES FOR 1988

*Simple medicines/medical supplies for general use, simple medical tools and equipment.

*Clothing and sewing supplies -- clothes cover the people and assist development. Sewing supplies support the growing network of women's sewing cooperatives which provide training, jobs and production.

*Seeds and food, especially for children, such as powdered milk and cereal, as well as basic grains.

*Educational supplies, sports equipment and toys.

THE MAQUILADORA CRISIS

By Brian Flagg of Casa Maria, the Catholic Worker community in Tucson

This is a desperate time for American workers: 18 million are unemployed or underemployed. Over 3 million are homeless and over 35 million are living under the official poverty level.

The response of the Reagan Administration? With help from both Democratic and Republican Sunbelt Congressmen and the taxpayers' money, it is encouraging more U.S. corporations to export capital and super-exploitative jobs to Mexico.

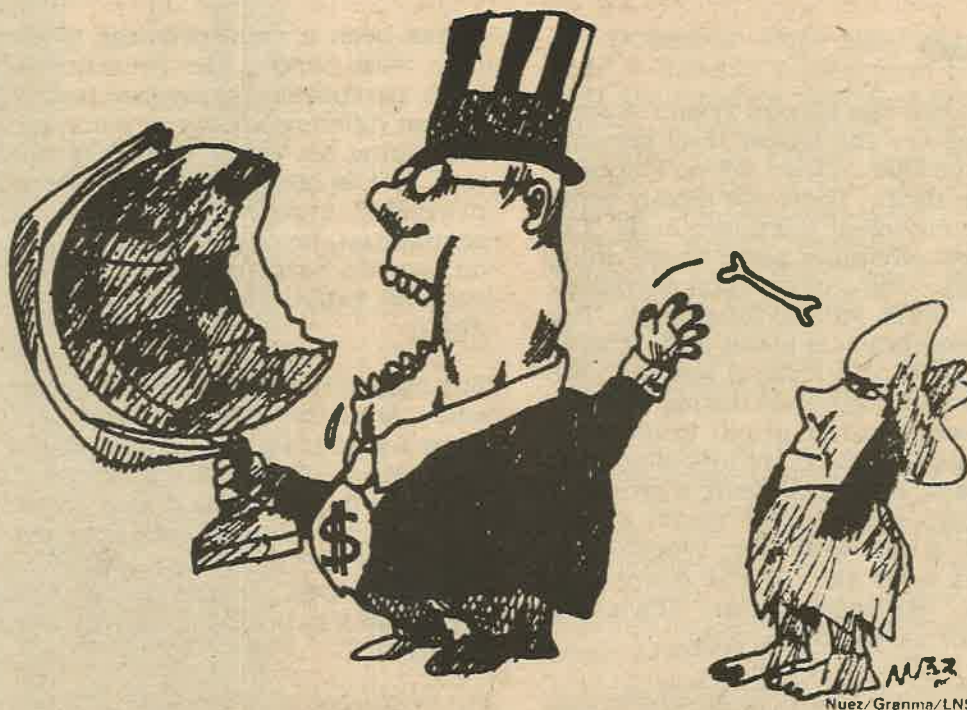
During the first week of December, the Expo Maquila 1986 trade show, sponsored by the U.S. Commerce Department, was held in Acapulco. Though Congress made the Commerce Department stop spending federal money on it, the organizers quickly found a private public relations firm willing to take over the project. The Commerce Department invited 120,000 companies to participate in the Expo, which extolled the Maquiladora program.

Maquilas are assembly plants set up in Mexico by U.S. or other foreign companies. These companies purchase or manufacture component parts in the U.S., ship them across the border to Mexico for assembly and then bring the finished product back to the U.S. for sale, paying a duty only on the value added which is the cheap Mexican labor. They are sometimes called twin plants because an assembly plant in Mexico is often accompanied by a warehouse or component manufacturing facility on the U.S. side. The maquiladora program was initiated in 1965 by the Mexican government and is aided by special U.S. tariffs which allow the virtual duty-free imports back into the U.S.

There are about 767 operations employing nearly 300,000, mostly women and children workers, at wages from 30 to 75 cents an hour. Nearly 75 percent of these assembly plants have U.S. parent companies. The list includes General Motors, General Electric, Ford Auto, Rockwell International, Honeywell, Motorola, Zenith Electronics, Union Carbide, RCA and Farah Manufacturing. The AFL-CIO News estimates that nearly \$2 billion has been invested by U.S. transnationals in the last 10 years, resulting in 900,000 jobs being directly moved from the U.S. to Mexico.

General Motors, the largest private contractor for Star Wars, is one of the transnationals with several maquiladora assembly plants. GM is currently closing down 11 U.S. plants and throwing 29,000 workers out of work. One of GM's latest ventures in the maquiladora zone is an electrical components plant. This was the plant to which GM was going to ship work from its Delco plant in Kokoma, Indiana. The United Auto Workers local there struck and managed to stop GM.

U.S. labor is now working on two approaches to stop companies from running away to Mexico. One is to set up joint labor organizing committees to unionize country by country. Also, labor is demanding that Congress pass laws barring entry into the U.S. of materials, parts and products made in the maquiladoras.



U.S. Congressman Jim Kolbe, from Tucson, spoke at the Acapulco conference and said that the maquiladora program is "very beneficial to the United States and Mexico." But who does the loss of American jobs and a starvation wage scale in Mexico really benefit?

U.S. labor leaders say maquila plants make an enormous profit on the backs of the workers -- U.S. workers who lose jobs when companies move to Mexico and Mexican workers who are paid a wage they cannot live on. Corporations claim they are forced to relocate to other countries so as to remain competitive in the world market. Low wages combined with the proximity of the Mexican border to headquarters, customers and clients make Mexico the country of choice for runaway companies. A survey of 225 U.S. manufacturing industry executives taken last spring by Manufacturing Week found that when considering an international manufacturing site, the overwhelming first choice is Mexico. South Korea is second. Those surveyed pointed to the abundant low-wage work force as the most important factor in their decision. The least important factor in deciding on an international site is the quality of life for employees, according to the study. In an interview with the Tucson Weekly (March 23, 1988), Tucson-based maquila consultant Shields T. Fair, president of Manufactures International, pointed out that Mexican wages are among the lowest in the developing world -- lower than wages in Hong Kong, Singapore, Taiwan, or Korea, traditional sources of cheap assembly plant labor.

Tucson is sixty miles and a whole other world away from Nogales, Sonora, Mexico. Since the maquiladora program began in 1965, the population of Nogales has grown from 30,000 to an estimated 200,000. People from throughout Mexico have flocked to border cities like Nogales to work in the maquiladoras. The government is unable to provide housing, schools, health facilities, transportation or utilities. According to city officials and others, Nogales may be short of housing for as many as 80,000 people. According to Shields Fair, who has worked for and owned maquiladoras, the 65 maquiladora plants in Nogales do not provide an

adequate tax base for the local government to build an infrastructure largely because the maquiladoras pay next to nothing in corporate taxes. He said U.S. companies locating in Mexico are "generally extremely profitable operations", and that those who work full time in the factories live in poverty without anything close to what the plant managers who live across the border consider essential.

We at the Catholic Worker in Tucson see a direct connection between homelessness in America and the maquiladoras. The increasing lack of opportunity in this country due to the export of jobs has the effect of destroying the lives of American workers. Family break-ups, alcohol abuse, crime and violence are symptoms of this phenomenon. Broken and often hopeless human beings standing in our daily soup line is the eventual result. The enslavement and exploitation of Mexican workers by American corporations in the name of "remaining competitive" is a moral outrage. Perhaps the corporate maquila profiteers could gain insight into how their business decisions may ultimately come back to haunt them by glancing at the book of James, Chapter 5:

"Now listen, you rich people, weep and wail because of the misery that is coming upon you.

Your wealth has rotted and moths have eaten your clothes.

Your gold and silver are corroded. Their corrosion will testify against you and eat your flesh like fire. You have hoarded wealth in the last days.

Look! The wages you failed to pay the workers who mowed your fields are crying out against you. The cries of the harvesters have reached the ears of the Lord Almighty.

You have lived on earth in luxury and self-indulgence. You have fattened yourselves in the day of slaughter.

You have condemned and murdered the innocent who were not opposing you."

James 5(1-6)



Friday nights at 7:30 we have worship at the Catholic Worker House. Please join us!

Thanks once again to Dean, Sue and Doug for all your help with the newspaper.

Photos by Kari Fisher

COMMUNITY

KATIE BOBBITT
LUKE BOBBITT
WENDY BOBBITT
JIM HARRINGTON
PATTI MCKEE
NORMAN SEARAH
MARLA WELLS



Lin Romano won her appeal in the Epiphany Plowshares case. The appeal was based on the judge's refusal to allow her the attorney of her choice in the fourth trial. It is not known whether the government will appeal this decision or whether it will opt to try her a fifth time. The appellate court did not issue a clear decision on Lin's second appeal, which concerned the gag orders. Lin will remain at Lexington FCI for the time being.

NEEDS

MONEY

(It always dries up in the summer but our bills don't)

PAMPERS

CLEANING SUPPLIES

FOOD

especially fresh produce, coffee, sugar, canned fruit, juices, pre-sweetened koolaid, spaghetti sauce, mayonnaise

SUPPLIES AND VOLUNTEERS

(For rehabbing the new house; you name it, we need it)



As you can see, the new house still needs a little work! If you can lend a hand, please call Wendy at 243-0765. We're not looking for expertise, just someone we can count on. Please give us a call if you have some time you can put in.

Don't forget the low-income housing demonstration July 14th at noon at First and Court on the levee!

HOMELESS IN WASHINGTON, D.C.

By Madeleine Kelly, who stayed with us during May, 1988

While I was attending a convention in Washington, D.C., I realized that I did not have enough money to pay for the hotel, so I went searching for shelter.

My husband came to my rescue, I thought, but he made things worse when we had to sleep in the car.

I awoke early the next morning in excruciating pain in my back and could not stay in the car any longer. I decided I was going to look for shelter but my husband did not want to come along so he got out of the car and left me in the middle of nowhere.

I cried out to God, Lord, help me as I do not know where I am and the Lord heard my cry and directed me to a shelter, only to find it locked. I waited and waited for two hours but no one came. Lord, I said, I do not understand, please help me.

Feeling bad about my husband out on the road, I decided to go out and search for him.

I called his brother to see if he was there, but to no avail, so I started in the direction of his brother's house to see if I could find him on the road but I could not locate him.

I found myself lost, so I called his brother again but this time he would not accept the call. I hung up devastated, here I was in the middle of nowhere with only 50 cents in my purse and a quarter of a tank of gas.

Again I cried out to God, what do I do now and a man came to my rescue and we went searching for my husband who was nowhere to be found. I was led back to Washington to search for another shelter.

I spent twelve hours going from one shelter to another and the only thing to be found was no more place, there's no room here.

By 5:00 that night I found myself in Washington Park, and here again I said, Lord, I'm sure You don't want me to spend the night here in the Park. At that time a man came over and said he could help. Being so desperate for food and shelter, I followed him only to find myself in the hands of prostitution. Again I cried out to God and asked Him to save me from all of this and that's when I did find some shelter.

But when I arrived there I was given the second degree, that I really should not stay with my husband because of what he did to me.



This went on for an hour. Inside I wanted to lash out at her, saying don't you know what I have been through, I'm sick and tired, I need rest, but I did not utter a word only thanking God inside for finding me a place to rest my head.

Finally at 10:30 PM I was brought to the shelter and found peace and a warm bed for my tired bones.

I praise and thank God that I had His Son to comfort me and to take care of me while I was on the streets.

I can see how a person can end up in the mental institution or turn to drugs and alcohol in such a stressful time.

The harvest is full but the laborers are few.

IF YOU WANT
PEACE
WORK FOR
JUSTICE
PAUL 6

Via Pacis

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